AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Without prejudice, please amend the claims as reflected in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): An electrode for contacting an electrically conductive surface of a photovoltaic element, the electrode comprising:

an electrically insulating optically transparent film;

an adhesive layer provided on one surface of said film; and

a plurality of substantially parallel, electrically conductive wires embedded into said adhesive layer, wherein said adhesive layer secures said wires to said film, a part of the surfaces of said wires protruding from the adhesive layer and at least said part of the surfaces protruding from said adhesive layer being covered by a coating comprising an alloy [[(]]having a low melting point,[[)]] to ~~provide for connection of~~solder said wires to said electrically conductive surface and to a first terminal bar.

2. (Currently Amended): The electrode according to claim 1, further comprising an outer plurality of substantially parallel wires extending generally perpendicularly to said plurality of wires embedded into said adhesive layer to form a wire mesh and wherein said outer wires are operably configured for solderingconnection to a second terminal bar.

3. (Previously Submitted): The electrode according to claim 2, wherein said first and second terminal bars are electrically connected to each other.

4. (Previously Submitted): The electrode according to claim 2, wherein said terminal bars are provided at respective ends of said wires embedded into said adhesive layer and said outer wires.

5. (Previously Submitted): The electrode according to claim 4, wherein said terminal bars are disposed outside a contour of the photovoltaic element.

6-7. Cancelled

8. (Previously Submitted): The electrode according to claim 5, wherein said terminal bars extend a length of two adjacent photovoltaic elements to be connected and a step is provided in a center of said terminal bars, so that a plurality of terminal bars can be fit together forming one row, in which one half of a terminal bar is arranged below or above a lower or upper half, respectively, of a neighbouring terminal bar, and wherein an insulating film is provided between neighbouring terminal bars.

9-26. Cancelled

27. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 1 wherein said wires embedded into said adhesive layer extend generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said film.

28. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 1 wherein said wires embedded into said adhesive layer extend generally perpendicularly to a longitudinal axis of said film.

29. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 2 wherein said outer wires extend generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said film.

30 (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 2 wherein said outer wires are soldered to said wires embedded into said adhesive layer.

31. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 2 wherein said outer wires have portions embedded into said adhesive layer.

32. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 1 wherein said adhesive layer has a thickness less than a thickness of said wires embedded therein.

33. (Currently Amended) The electrode of claim 1 further comprising a first terminal bar electrically soldered~~connected~~ to said wires embedded into said adhesive layer and extending transversely to said wires.

34-35. Cancelled

36. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 1 wherein said film is sufficiently thick to be drawn and to support said adhesive layer and wherein said film is sufficiently thin to have elasticity.

37. (Previously Submitted) The electrode of claim 1 wherein said film has a thickness of between about 10 micrometers to about 50 micrometers.

38. (Currently Amended) The electrode of claim 1 wherein said coating is on the entire surfaces of said wires operable to be soldered ~~contact~~ onto the electrically conductive surface of the photovoltaic element.

39. (New) An electrode for contacting an electrically conductive surface of a photovoltaic element, the electrode comprising:

an electrically insulating optically transparent film;

an adhesive layer provided on one surface of said film; and

a plurality of substantially parallel, electrically conductive wires embedded into said adhesive layer, said wires not embedded in said film, a part of the surfaces of said wires protruding from the adhesive layer and at least said part of the surfaces protruding from said adhesive layer being covered by a coating comprising an alloy having a low melting point to provide for soldering of said wires to said electrically conductive surface.